

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A device for hanging handbags and other items from tables and other structures, comprising:

a band which is U-shaped in an open position, of an elastically resilient material which comprises:

a first, extending limb ~~which ends in~~ having a first end region, ~~which includes a first end,~~ and

a second limb which is curved outward in a C-shaped manner and ~~which ends in~~ a second end region, which includes a second end, bent back into an inside of the U-shape, and

a connection arch connecting the first and second limbs,

the first and second end regions may be selectively spread apart and thus the band may be repeatedly closed into a ring and opened again,

wherein in a closed position, the second end region is led around the first end region and in this position presses from an outside against the first end region,

and wherein in the closed position, in a region of overlap between the second end region and the first end region, ~~each the end region regions is in~~ are substantially parallel to one another and ~~each has a~~ substantially planar configuration ~~that extends over the entire region of overlap.~~

2. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a layer ~~formed on~~ attached to an inner side of the band consisting of

a material provided to increase ~~having a higher friction coefficient on~~ with a supporting surface compared to a friction of the elastically resilient material of the band with the support surface.

3. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a cover completely enveloping the band, the cover comprised of a material provided to increase ~~having a higher friction coefficient on~~ between the band and a supporting surface ~~than steel~~.

4. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover comprises at least one of a flexible tubing and a bag extending over the band.

5. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover has a first closed end in a bag-like manner, and an oppositely lying second end comprising a bag opening, said bag opening being closed with a separate closure part.

6. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 5, wherein the closure part is comprised of at least one of a metal clip and a plastic clip which encompasses an end edge of the second end region.

7. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover is ~~formed by~~ comprised of at least one of a coating and a peripheral casting of on the elastically resilient material of the band.

8. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, further comprising decorations on the outer side of the cover.

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover on an inner side of the band consists of different material than the cover on an outer side of the band.

10. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 9, wherein on the inner side of the band, the cover is ~~manufactured~~ comprises of ~~at lest~~ least one of leather, imitation leather, plastic and textile fabric.

11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 3, wherein on the an outer side of the band, the cover is ~~manufactured~~ comprises of at least one of leather, imitation leather, plastic and textile fabric.

12. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1 further comprising, a first transmitter or receiver coupled to the band, which is equipped to communicate with a second transmitter or receiver that is separated from the band and which emits an alarm sound when the first transmitter or receiver and second transmitter or receiver are separated a certain distance from each other.

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the elastically resilient material comprises spring steel.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 2, wherein the layer is comprised of at least one of rubber, soft plastic, imitation leather and leather.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the cover is comprised of at least one of leather, plastic, textile fabric, and rubber.

16. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the covering is comprised of a peripheral injection molding with two-component plastic.

17. (Previously presented) The device of claim 8, wherein the decorations comprise at least one of gems, a print on the cover and a watch.

18. (New) A device for hanging handbags and other items from tables and other structures, comprising:

a band forming a generally triangular shape in a closed position comprised of an elastically resilient material, the band having:

a first limb being substantially planar over its length and defining a first terminal end;

a second limb having a first limb portion and a second limb portion, the second limb portion defining a second terminal end and having a curved portion forming a support hook, a transition arch connecting the first limb portion to the second limb portion and having a radius that is less than a radius of the first limb portion; and

a connection arch having a radius that is less than a radius of the first limb portion connecting the first limb to the second limb, so that the first and second limbs press against and overlap each other in the closed position and are substantially planar and substantially in parallel to each other over an entire region of overlap, and so that the first limb is positionable on a flat support surface in an open position and lies substantially parallel thereto with the second limb hanging from the connection arch to form a hook for supporting an object hung therefrom.

19. (New) A device for hanging handbags and other items from tables and other structures, comprising:
- a band generally forming a ring in a closed position comprised of an elastically resilient material, the band having:
    - a first limb being substantially planar over its length and defining a first free end;
    - a second limb having a generally C shape depending from said first limb and defining a second free end, the first and second limbs pressing against and overlapping each other in the closed position and being planar and in parallel to each other over an entire region of overlap;
  - the first limb positionable on a flat support surface in an open position and laying substantially parallel thereto and the second elongate limb hanging from the first limb and having a distal portion that extends upwardly to support and retaining an object hung therefrom.